

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



February 9, 2005

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-06-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☒ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL LETTER ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
CHANGES TO CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM WITH
SENATE BILL (SB) 1104

REFERENCES: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 04-41, DATED OCTOBER 8, 2004;
ERRATA TO ACL 04-41, DATED DECEMBER 9, 2004

Some counties have reported that they are concerned about their ability to meet the implementation time line required for the changes made by SB 1104. This notice transmits guidance to county welfare departments to assist them in implementing the changes made by SB 1104.

March 1, 2005 is the deadline to fully engage all non-exempt recipients in the CalWORKs program. This deadline is 90 days from the legislatively-established effective date of the welfare-to-work (WTW) program changes, which is December 1, 2004. One way for counties to more efficiently implement the new requirements would be to establish an order of priority for developing or revising WTW plans. This might mean serving first, for example, participants who should have a WTW plan but do not, including individuals who had been working full time but lost their job or reduced the number of hours they were working; second, participants who have reached their 18- to 24-month time limit and who were assigned to, and are participating in, community service; third, participants whose current WTW plans do not meet the new participation requirements and who are working less than 20 hours per week; and finally, all other participants who have plans that do not meet the new participation requirements in SB 1104, but who are actually satisfying the core hour requirement through 20 or more hours/week of employment. In this way, the county may be able to manage the implementation of these changes within the legislatively-established time frames without adversely affecting staff.

Counties are reminded that ACL 04-41 contains a discussion under "Implementation Timelines" that encourages counties to also revise WTW plans for individuals who are assigned to community service, refuse to accept the assignment, are sanctioned for their refusal, and then continue to participate in or complete their pre-18- or 24-month time-limited activity. Each county, however, may want to consider its own population of recipients and set its priorities to reflect the order in which those recipients would be served best. We believe that this methodology may provide services as soon as possible to clients with the greatest need and allow counties to develop quality WTW plans.

We hope this helps to mitigate some of the concerns that we have heard with regard to implementation requirements of SB 1104. We believe it is good public policy to move recipients into employment as quickly as possible while at the same time ensuring that they are well served by the WTW system. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Employment Bureau at (916) 654-2137.

Sincerely,

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA
CSAC